FRANK LAROSE
Ohio Secretary of State

State Flag of Ohio

Since 1902

Ohio is the only state to have a swallow-tailed burgee, unlike the regular rectangular shape.

The first flying of the Ohio state flag was in Buffalo, New York, at the Pan-American Exposition. It was at this exposition that President William McKinley, one of many Ohio born United States Presidents, was assassinated.

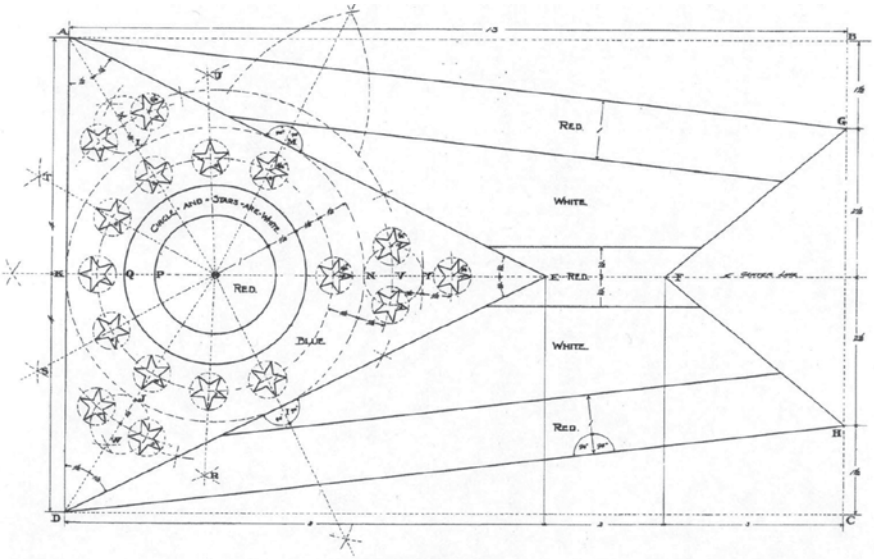
It took Ohio almost 100 years to come up with its own flag.

Ohio's official flag was adopted by an act of the Ohio Legislature on May 9, 1902. The Ohio burgee, as the swallow-tailed design is properly called, was drawn by John Eisenmann, architect and designer for the Ohio State Pan-American Exposition Commission.

The Ohio flag has three red and two white horizontal stripes. At its staff end is a blue triangular field with the apex at the center of the middle red stripe. There are 17 white, five-pointed stars grouped around a red disc superimposed upon a white circular O.

Mr. Eisenmann explained the Ohio flag's symbolism most aptly:

> *"The triangles formed by the main lines of the flag represent the hills and valleys as typified in the State Seal, and the stripes the roads and waterways.*
>
> *The stars, indicating the 13 original states of the Union, are grouped about the circle, which represents the Northwest Territory; and that Ohio was the seventeenth state admitted into the Union is shown by adding four more stars.*
>
> *The white circle with its red center, not only represents the initial letter of Ohio, but is suggestive of its being the Buckeye State."*

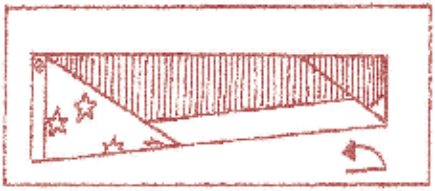


Above is a copy of John Eisenmann's original design for the Ohio State Flag.

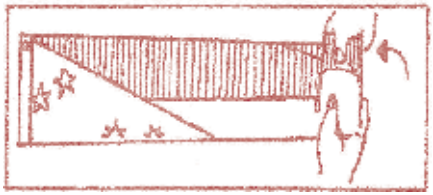
How to Fold the Ohio State Flag

Step 1: Fold in half length-wise so the points are aligned.

Step 2: Fold in half length-wise again, with the red disc facing down



Step 3: Fold pointed end back on itself.



Step 4: Fold two inches of flag onto itself.

Step 5: Repeat two-inch fold 14 times, alternating in a fan-like manner.

Step 6: Wrap remaining length of flag around fan-folds to make a rectangle.

Alex Weinstock, an Eagle Scout from Ohio's Junction City Troop 260, devised the method of folding the Ohio state flag as his Eagle project. The17 folds symbolize that Ohio was the 17th state admitted to the Union. This procedure was signed into law by the Governor in 2005.

Flag Display

When the state flag is displayed, it may be flown every day when weather permits and shall be flown from sunrise until sunset on all national and state holidays and on any other days that the Governor proclaims. The state flag may be flown at night when properly lighted. When the state flag is displayed outdoors, it shall be flown either from a flagpole or a staff. Any staff from which the state flag is flown shall be at least two and one-half times as long as the state flag.

The state flag shall be washed or dry cleaned when soiled and may be repaired. When the state flag is damaged beyond repair, it shall be destroyed privately either by cutting it into small pieces and burning it until only ashes remain or by sealing it in a plastic bag or box before discarding it in a trash collection.

When the flag of Ohio, or any state, is flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States of America, the latter should always be at the peak. When flown from adjacent staffs, the Stars and Stripes should be hoisted first and lowered last.

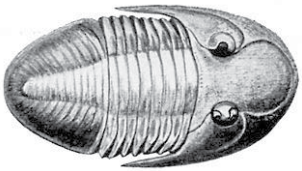
When a number of state flags are grouped and displayed from staffs with our national flag, the United States Flag should be at the center or at the highest point of the group.

When carried in a procession with the Ohio flag, or any state flag, the flag of the United States should be on the marching right.

When there is a line of several state flags, the national flag should be in the front and center of that line.

The current American flag was designed by Robert Heft who was living with his grandparents in Lancaster, Ohio. At the age of 17 Heft took the redesign on as a school project, receiving a B-. When told by his teacher that he could improve his grade if he could get the US Congress to accept his design that is just what he did.

Other State Symbols



Fossil
Isotelus

Bird
Cardinal

Animal
White-tailed deer

Tree
Ohio Buckeye

Flower
Scarlet Carnation

Insect
Ladybug

Amphibian
Spotted Salamander

Ohio History and Fun Facts

FOUNDING FATHERS

www.OhioFoundingFathers.com

Learn more about the many leaders of our past who helped shape our great nation and state. And test your knowledge of our Buckeye State with our Do You Know Ohio quiz.

I Know OHIO

Get Your Pin

Fruit
Tomato
Beverage
Tomato Juice

Native Fruit
Paw Paw

Reptile
Black Racer Snake

Frog
Bullfrog

Wildflower
White Trillium

Artifact
Adena Pipe

Gem Stone
Ohio Flint

A complete list of state symbols can be found in the Ohio Revised Code, Available online at codes.ohio.gov/orc/gp5

In 2002, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Ohio flag, the Ohio General Assembly adopted a pledge to the Ohio flag for the first time in state history which can be recited following the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

"I salute the flag of the state of Ohio and pledge to the Buckeye State respect and loyalty"

FRANK LAROSE
Ohio Secretary of State

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